

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 240

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require Department of Veterans Affairs pharmacies to dispense medications to veterans for prescriptions written by private health-care practitioners in the case of veterans who, after having made an appointment to see a Department of Veterans Affairs physician to obtain such a prescription, have been waiting for longer than 30 days, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 8, 2003

Mr. MICA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require Department of Veterans Affairs pharmacies to dispense medications to veterans for prescriptions written by private health-care practitioners in the case of veterans who, after having made an appointment to see a Department of Veterans Affairs physician to obtain such a prescription, have been waiting for longer than 30 days, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Prescription
3 Drug Equity Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PHARMACIES**
5 **TO DISPENSE MEDICATIONS TO VETERANS**
6 **ON PRESCRIPTIONS WRITTEN BY PRIVATE**
7 **PRACTITIONERS.**

8 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—Section 1712(d) of title 38, United
9 States Code, is amended—

10 (1) by inserting “(1)” after “(d)”; and

11 (2) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(2)(A) In addition to drugs and medicines furnished
13 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall furnish to a
14 qualifying veteran such drugs and medicines as may be
15 ordered on prescription of a duly licensed physician or
16 other health-care professional in the treatment of any ill-
17 ness or injury of the veteran.

18 “(B) A veteran is a qualifying veteran for purposes
19 of this paragraph if—

20 “(i) the veteran has made an appointment to
21 see a Department physician for the sole purpose of
22 obtaining a prescription for drugs or medicines in
23 the treatment of any illness or injury of the veteran;
24 and

1 “(ii) a period of not less than 30 days has
2 elapsed since the appointment was made without the
3 veteran obtaining such a prescription.

4 “(C) Any prescription furnished under this para-
5 graph is subject to section 1722A of this title.”.

6 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—(1) The heading of
7 section 1712 of such title is amended by striking the sixth
8 through ninth words.

9 (2) The item relating to section 1712 in the table of
10 sections at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is
11 amended by striking the sixth through ninth words.

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